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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/790,331

03/01/2004

H. Bruce Bongiorno

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7590

11/26/2007

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THANH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2144

MAIL DATE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/790,331	Applicant(s) BONGIORNI ET AL.	
	Examiner Tammy T. Nguyen	Art Unit 2144	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE (1) MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |



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*Election/Restrictions*

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-10, drawn to a network system for allowing the set of Web services to work jointly together to solve an engineering problem, classified in **class 709, subclass 205**.
  - II. Claims 11-15, drawn to a computer system, a set of collaborative software agents, classified in **class 709, subclass 202**.
  - III. Claims 16-20, drawn to a computer-implemented method for executing a collaboration framework, classified in **class 709, subclass 106**.
2. Inventions I, II, and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable.

In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as a network system for allowing the set of Web services to work jointly together to solve an engineering problem, information pertaining to verification, validation, and accreditation for each Web service in the set of Web services, but lacks of a computing system, a set of collaborative software agents, and a set of function agents for coordinating Web services within an engineering discipline and a set of

community agents arrangement configuration design and analysis community and requirements definition and management community agent, and a computer-implemented method for executing a collaboration framework, for registering web service, issuing solution requirements and forming of project team and capturing a workflows by service provider, a project sponsor and a chief engineer web services as a project team designs a solution to satisfy the solution requirements classified in a *different Class/ Subclass*. Invention II has separate utility such as a a computing system, a set of collaborative software agents, and a set of function agents for coordinating Web services within an engineering discipline and a set of community agents arrangement configuration design and analysis community and requirements definition and management community agent, but lacks a network system for allowing the set of Web services to work jointly together to solve an engineering problem, information pertaining to verification, validation, and accreditation for each Web service in the set of Web services, and a computer-implemented method for executing a collaboration framework, for registering web service, issuing solution requirements and forming of project team and capturing a workflows by service provider, a project sponsor and a chief engineer web services as a project team designs a solution to satisfy the solution requirements, classified in a *different Class/Subclass*. Invention III has separate utility such as a computer-implemented method for executing a collaboration framework, for registering web service, issuing solution requirements and forming of project team and capturing a workflows by service provider, a project sponsor and a chief engineer web services as a project team designs a solution to satisfy the solution requirements, but lacks a network system for allowing the set of Web services to work jointly together to solve an engineering problem, information pertaining to verification, validation, and accreditation for

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each Web service in the set of Web services, and a computing system, a set of collaborative software agents, and a set of function agents for coordinating Web services within an engineering discipline and a set of community agents arrangement configuration design and analysis community and requirements definition and management community agent, classified in a *different Class/Subclass*. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

3. The inventions are distinct for reasons given above, and the search required for each Group is different and not co-extensive for examination purposes. For example, the searches for the three inventions would not be co-extensive because these Groups would require different searches on PTO's classification class and subclass as following reasons:

(a) These invention have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications.

(b) The search required for each Group is different and not co-extensive for examination purposes.

For example, the searches for the three inventions would not be co-extensive because these Groups would require different searches on PTO's classification class and subclass as following:

The Group I search (claims 1-10) would require use of search **Class 709, subclass 205** (which would not be required for invention II, and III).

The Group II search (claims 11-15) would require use of search **Class 709, subclass 202** (which would not be required for the invention I, and III).

The Group III search (claims 16-20) would require use of search **Class 709**, **subclass 106** (which would not be required for the invention I, and II).

For the reasons given above restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

6. Applicant is reminded that the required for response to this requirement is 30 days, not one month.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tammy T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272- 3929. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *William Vaughn* can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information

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Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thanh', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Thanh Tammy Nguyen

Patent Examiner

November 10, 2007